

Using ESIF in Lithuania: programming and priorities

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- Founder of European Public Policy Institute, aiming to facilitate dialogue across parties' lines on key issues, like clean energy, education, etc. Entrepreneur .
- Six years experience as CEO of *Norway Registers Development AS* in public sector modernization projects in East Africa, South and South East Asia.
- Vice Minister and then Minister of Economy, in the political cycle of 2008-2012.

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Background

Climate change agenda in the years of crisis

- Context: Lithuania lost ~15% GDP in 2009, economy seemed to be collapsing
- How come, that Lithuanian Government invested in climate action during such severe crises?
- While climate change was not high in rank of public concerns?
 - Project of mass insulation of apartment buildings
 - Insulation and renovation public buildings (schools, hospitals, public administration, etc.)
 - Reequipping centralized heating stations to use biofuels instead of natural gas

- Policy priority 1: to stimulate demand with any resources available
- Policy priority 2: to decrease dependence on energy resources from Russia (Gazprom)
- Policy priority 3: to decrease size of “energy bill” for residents and businesses

Priorities of policymakers

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“You never let a serious crisis go to waste”

- Crisis of 2009 had a huge impetus to implement measures discussed earlier
- Climate change related measures were welcomed side effects, rather primary agenda
- Lithuania was a partner rather than receiver of funds, so our priorities were strongly reflected in developed instruments
- High energy prices were very important motivator to insulation and transition to biofuels projects
- Revolving funds was our idea of saving scarce resources and mitigating unwanted effects of grant schemes
- Development actual working models of apartment housing insulation took way longer, that we expected and wanted

Questions for discussion

- How to make climate change agenda “profitable” (rather than “idealistic”), especially for countries late to the party?
- What regulation concepts should turn low oil prices to the benefit renewables?